



Southwest Public Lands People

Employee News



San Juan National Forest & San Juan Field Office-BLM Spring 2003

Fire Rehab Team Ready for Spring

By Amie Jackson

DURANGO – Dave Baker, who has been acting as Long-term Fire Rehabilitation Team Leader since November, has been chosen to lead the restoration effort following the Missionary Ridge Fire.

As the lead for fire recovery, he'll coordinate with the San Juan National Forest Fire Board of Directors: Pauline Ellis, Ron Duvall, Mike Johnson, and Bob Sieger.



Hydrologist Kay Zillich and Fire Rehabilitation Team Leader Dave Baker discuss plans for the spring.

Dave came to the San Juan from the BLM Worland Field Office in Wyoming, where he was the Planning and Environmental Coordinator. He holds a degree in Recreational Resource Management from the University of Montana.

"Our top priority is to make currently closed areas, like the Missionary Ridge Road, safe so that we can reopen them to the public," he says.

Dave will supervise specialists working to restore public lands burned in the 70,000-acre Missionary Ridge Fire last summer. He is hiring a wildlife biologist, rangeland specialist, forester, archaeologist, GIS specialist, and seasonal positions.

San Juan Hydrologist Kay Zillich is also on the team. She'll split her time between the Fire Rehab Team and her ongoing



New culverts must be installed on the many drainages that cross Missionary Ridge Road, to handle post-fire increased runoff. The culvert above was installed at Pretty Creek in the fall.

work with the Upper Animas Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Reclamation Project.

She says she's looking forward to working closely with La Plata County on fire rehab projects.

"I would like to get help from the county and Civil Air Patrol to monitor for landslides and flooding," Kay says.

Before working on AML, Kay was with the San Juan's Integrated Resource Inventory Team in Dolores. She earned her Bachelor's of Science in Watershed Management from Colorado State University in 1978.

Dave and Kay are also both finishing up Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) projects, including erosion control and assessment of trails, roads, and recreation facilities in the area burned by the Missionary Ridge Fire.

Inside This Issue

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| San Juan Public Lands Center | 2-4 |
| Columbine RD/FO News | 5 |
| Dolores Public Lands Office | 6-7 |
| Anasazi Heritage Center | 7 |
| Employee Pet Contest | 8 |

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www.co.blm.gov/sjra/index.html

SAN JUAN PUBLIC LANDS CENTER



Mike Znerold's meager office space in Dolores (above) pales in comparison to his latest digs in Durango.

Znerold's Boss

By Amie Jackson

DURANGO – Mike Znerold is our latest Acting Forest Service Supervisor/BLM Center Manager. Over the years, Mike has occupied the position twice.

Mike is on detail from the Dolores Public Lands Office, where he's been the District Ranger/Field Office Manager since 1991. Before that, he worked as Assistant Director for Renewable Resources at the Regional Office in Denver.

"I have experience, background, and familiarity with this position, and it's a crucial point in the year when important decisions need to be made," Mike says. "I enjoy the work and know the people."

Until June, Mike will be overseeing San Juan issues, such as the Missionary Ridge salvage sale and rehabilitation, Management Indicator Species, drought, hazardous fuels, the Northern Basin EIS, and Canyon of Ancients Management Plan.

Mike holds a master's degree in Ecology from Washington State University and a bachelor's degree in Forestry from Humboldt State University in California.

Mike was born in South Dakota and grew up in Minnesota and Idaho. He has three children and is married. In his spare time, Mike enjoys restoring his 100-year-old farmhouse.

While Mike's away, Jamie Sellar is covering his position in Dolores.

Mark's Wild about Durango

By Amie Jackson

DURANGO – Mark Ball has been San Juan Wildlife Biologist/Program Leader since late fall.

Since then, he's been hard at work putting together an assessment plan for management indicator species (MIS) and helping create a San Juan-wide monitoring plan for MIS.

"I'm really happy so far in the job, and am working with a great group of people," he says.

For the past 17 years, Mark was Wildlife Biologist for the Pawnee National Grasslands in Greeley. Prior to that, he worked as Range Conservationist for the Rio Grande National Forest.

He has also worked seasonally for the Forest Service in Mississippi and did consulting work for the University of Florida.

Mark holds a master's degree in

Range Ecosystem Management from the University of Florida and a bachelor's in Wildlife Ecology.

He was born and raised in Florida, where he spent a lot of time in the Miami and Gainesville areas. His wife, Laurie, is on a 120-day detail here from the Arapahoe Roosevelt National Forest, assisting Personnel and Fiscal. She hopes to find a permanent position after her detail is up.

Mark and Laurie are the parents of Lindsay, 12, who is currently attending Miller Middle School.



Mark Ball

Acting Associate/Deputy Changes

By Ann Bond

DURANGO - Duane Spencer served as Acting Associate Center Manager/Deputy Forest Supervisor in the San Juan Public Lands Center for the past four months. He has returned to his permanent position as Branch Chief of Fluid Minerals in the BLM Colorado State Office. Duane's 19-year BLM career has included stints in Rawlins, Wyoming, and Farmington, New Mexico.

Jerry Strahan will be the next acting Associate Center Manager/Deputy Forest Supervisor. Jerry is currently Nonrenewable Resource Staff Supervisor in BLM's Little Snake Field Office in Craig. His duties there include oversight of the oil and gas, coal mining, minerals, abandoned mined lands, and realty programs. Jerry reports to the San Juan in mid March.



Duane Spencer, our last Deputy Forest Supervisor and Acting Associate Center Manager, has returned to Denver.

SAN JUAN PUBLIC LANDS CENTER



Amie Jackson

FLC Intern Covers News

By Ann Bond

DURANGO - Amie Jackson, 22, is a Fort Lewis College English/Communications senior spending her last semester with us as a San Juan Public Lands Newsletter intern. Amie, a Denver native, graduates in May.

"I get free tuition because my grandmother is part Native American as a member of the Choctaw Indian Tribe of Oklahoma," Amie says. "She enrolled her grandkids in the tribe so we can get free tuition at schools like FLC."

Since January, Amie has been busy interviewing employees, writing and editing stories, taking digital photographs, and helping with design and layout of the newsletter. She receives college credit but no pay for her hard

work, but says the experience is priceless.

"I enjoy talking to all the people who work here with all these neat jobs," she says. "I'm learning a lot from the newsletter editing process, too."

Amie works as a disc jockey at KDUR-FM, the college radio station, where she is also music director. She enjoys snowboarding with her boyfriend, Felipe, also a student at FLC, and playing with her lab, Tony. She's just starting to formulate her post-graduation plans.

"I plan to relax for a little bit and then move back to Denver, where I'll try to get a job and maybe apply to graduate school programs," she says.

Amie will be assisting in the Public Affairs Office with newsletter and other duties until May. She is the latest of some two dozen FLC interns who have helped make this newsletter possible over the past decade.



Darren Lemon

Sweet, Not Sour

By Amie Jackson

DURANGO – Darren Lemon is helping survey and design campgrounds as the newest San Juan National Forest Engineer.

He graduated from Oregon State University last year with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering.

In school, he worked with engineers at the La Grande Ranger District of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest under the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP), which paid his senior year tuition and helped him get his job in Durango.

For the next four years, Darren will work with San Juan engineers and then will take the test for his professional engineering license.

"It's been great so far. I'm learning a lot and have a lot of good teachers," Darren says. "There are so many disciples and they all want something different. If they don't like what we've designed, we have to start all over."

In the future, Darren wants to work as a forest engineer in Montana. He was born in Pendleton, Oregon, and has lived in Alaska.

Darren moved here with Sarah, his fiancé and high school sweetheart.



Ruth Lambert

Ruth Is Ready

By Amie Jackson

DURANGO - Ruth Lambert has joined the San Juan Mountains Association as Cultural Program Director. She recently left Flagstaff, Arizona, where she was with the U.S. Geological Survey at the Grand Canyon Research Center for more than six years.

In Flagstaff, Ruth managed archaeological and traditional tribal resources in the Grand Canyon affected by water releases from Glen Canyon Dam. One great perk was that she "had to" raft the Colorado River frequently through the Grand Canyon.

Ruth has worked as an archaeologist in the Southwest for more than two decades. She began her career in 1980 inventorying archaeological sites for two universities during the Dolores Project, before construction of McPhee Reservoir. She also helped community groups and towns on historic-preservation projects.

Ruth is busy with the final stages of a doctoral dissertation in Anthropology at the University of New Mexico, which she hopes to complete in a year. Ruth has a master's degree in Anthropology from the University of Colorado and a degree in Community and Regional Planning from UNM. As SJMA's Cultural Program Director, Ruth will run the Cultural Site Stewardship Program. She served as a site steward in Arizona monitoring cultural sites in the Coconino National Forest in the mid 1990s.

"I have experience and enthusiasm to bring to SJMA. Having worked with agencies before, I will be very perceptive of the federal needs for the program," Ruth says.

SAN JUAN PUBLIC LANDS CENTER

Knipp Is Joint Budget Guru

By Amie Jackson

DURANGO – Linda Knipp was promoted this fall to become the first Financial Officer to serve both the Forest Service and BLM at the San Juan Public Lands Center.

"I like a variety of responsibilities in my job. I also really enjoy working with numbers. Numbers can tell many stories," says Linda, who'll be planning, preparing, and executing budgets.

To handle both agencies' budgets, Linda has put both work plans on one database and will provide budget reports on the Forest Service Intranet Web site.

Linda now has a staff of four full-time employees and one detailer who help her handle payments and expenses. In the late 1990s, the San Juan's Budget Office dropped to two individuals because of the South Administration Zone, an attempt to centralize administrative tasks.

In 2000, when the South Zone was disbanded and the Foundation Financial Information System (FFIS) was imple-



Linda Knipp

mented, the local Budget and Finance staff began to grow. Linda says her main goal now is to keep her office staffed and her staff trained.

A Durango native, Linda began her Forest Service career as a mail clerk in 1971, making her way into Budget in 1983. She also worked in Fiscal and as a Computer Assistant in Durango.

"I've been enjoying the Forest since I was a child. It has always been a special place to me, and I enjoy working with it," Linda says. She and her two grandchildren, Hazel, 6, and Steven, 4, like to work in her flower garden at home.

Employees Donate Sick Leave

By Ann Bond

DURANGO - Helen Mary Johnson, San Juan Public Lands Minerals Supervisor, has received 550 hours of donated sick leave to help take care of her son, Walker, age 6, who was diagnosed with leukemia this fall.

"My eyes popped open when I saw how much leave had been donated," she says. "Everyone has been so generous. Folks have been so caring."

Walker, also the son of Walt Brown, is currently undergoing chemotherapy treatments in Durango, but the family has to travel to Denver every 2-4 months. He's continuing to attend first grade at Riverview Elementary.

"In school, he says he likes phonics first and lunch second," Helen Mary says. "He's a great reader and is interested in space exploration and astronomy. He loves to play with three-dimensional toys."

The Voluntary Leave Transfer Program allows federal employees to donate annual leave to other federal employees for medical or family emergencies, or other hardship situations.



(Left to right) Andrew, 4, and Walker, 6, Brown.

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COLUMBINE RANGER DISTRICT/FIELD OFFICE



Carolyn Long

Cowgirl Carolyn

By Ann Bond

BAYFIELD - Carolyn Long is the new Columbine Recreation Outfitter-Guide Permit Administrator.

She has worked on the District for 13 years, most recently as Visitor Information Specialist, and earlier in business management and as Support Services Supervisor. She worked for the Bureau of Reclamation prior to that.

"Carolyn has been a valued employee for quite a while," said Pauline Ellis, Columbine District Ranger/Field Office Manager. "Her background in recreation and special uses and interpersonal skills will serve her well."

Carolyn will manage more than 100 recreational and educational permits. She'll also handle recreation events, such as the Hard Rock 100.

Carolyn will continue to work out of Columbine's Bayfield office but plans to spend most of her time in the field, some of it on horseback.

Columbine has a herd of five trail-savvy equines, which its recreation and range shops share. It's a work-style change this former cowgirl looks forward to with enthusiasm.

"My previous jobs had me strapped to the office for several years so I'm really looking forward to working in the field," Carolyn says.

It's Uphill for Downhill Denny

By Amie Jackson

SILVERTON – Denny Hogan is the San Juan's first Snow Ranger to work for both agencies, as Columbine's new FS/BLM Snow Ranger and Recreation Technician.

"He's responsible for monitoring Durango Mountain Resort on the National Forest and the Silverton Ski Area on BLM," said Richard Speegle, Columbine Recreation Staff.

Denny will also manage 18 other winter sports outfitter-guide permits. "My main goal is to establish good dialogue between users and to get people to the table to resolve issues," Denny says.

Denny will also be Columbine's first employee to live full time in Silverton, where he will run the local BLM office. "It's good to have an agency presence in Silverton," he says. "There's a lot going on with the new ski area proposal."

Denny has worked in avalanche safety for three decades, most recently as Snow Safety Director for the World Free-Skiing Championships in Alaska. He also worked as a forecaster at the Colorado Avalanche Information Center in Boulder, and for the Colorado Department of Transportation in Silverton. That's not to mention 13 years of ski patrol and snow cat operations in Vail and Copper Mountain.

Denny's wife, Pam, teaches English as a Second Language at Colorado Mountain College in Glenwood Springs. When her contract is up, she plans to join her husband. In summer, Denny will manage recreation on the BLM Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway and monitor the DMR Master Development Plan.



Denny Hogan

Dick Departs

By Tracey McInerney

DURANGO – Dick Bell retired in January after an almost 40-year career with the Forest Service. He began as a seasonal recreation aid and smoke chaser for the Cache National Forest while attending Utah State University. After graduating in the '60s, he headed to the Boise National Forest as a smoke chaser, compliance checker, and fire lookout. "Back then, we worked a lot of hours in fire without overtime or hazard pay," Dick recalls. "All they gave us was a hardhat. We had to provide the rest." Dick landed his first permanent job on the Bitterroot in 1965 as a Timber

Forester, then moved to the Blackhills National Forest; and to the Medicine Bow as Supervisory Forester in Recreation, Lands & Fire in the '70s.

In 1979, Dick landed on the San Juan in Recreation, Lands & Minerals on the Pine District in Bayfield.

In 1994, his focus turned to Lands and Minerals when the Columbine Ranger District formed. Since 2000, Dick has served as Physical Scientist Project Coordinator for the Northern San Juan Basin EIS.

Dick and his wife, Donna, have three children, Karen, Scott, and Tina, who has the family's two grandchildren, John, 7, and Jacqueline, 10.

Family, fishing, photography, woodworking, travel, and trains will fill his days ahead.



(Left) Dick Bell helps the public gather firewood.

DOLORES PUBLIC LANDS OFFICE



Mike Herin

Herin's Here

DOLORES - Mike Herin is the Assistant Engine Foreman in Dolores. He's been here a while, arriving from the Tonto National Forest last summer.

Mike was born in California, but spent most of his childhood in Arizona. He spent five years on the Payson Ranger District as a hot shot, and then a year in Prescott at Yavapai College completing his certification as an Emergency Medical Technician. He also served on the Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation Team for the 1997 fires at Mesa Verde National Park.

Aside from enjoying photography, horses, fishing, hunting, and scuba diving, Mike has been a farrier since high school.



Dale Donohue

FMO Donohue

DOLORES - Dale Donohue is the new Assistant Fire Management Officer in Dolores. He comes from the Cleveland National Forest where he spent 25 years in fire management.

In addition to 14 years as a supervisor, Dale has also served as on a hotshot crew, engine crew, and helitack crew.

He and his wife, Diana, and daughter Denise, 14, recently moved to the Dolores area from San Diego, but are not newcomers to the area.

"My parents moved to Dolores in 1978, after my father retired," said Donohue, "and I have owned property in the Ignacio area for several years; I am very happy to be here!"



Ken Hehr

Hello, Hehr

DOLORES - Ken Hehr is the new Dolores Timber Marking Crew Foreman. Along with supervising the marking crew, he will also handle sale layouts and provide GIS support.

His prior 10 years with the Forest Service include work at the Pacific Northwest Research Station conducting forest and vegetation inventories in Alaska. He also worked at the Rocky Mountain Research Station conducting inventories in the West. Ken's wife, Becky, is in the health care business. They have two children, Noel, 6, and Evan, 18 months.

"We mainly just chase kids around at this point," he says. "But I like to hunt, and we enjoy going on family hikes."

Lucky Leslie

DOLORES - Leslie Stewart is now Ecologist for the Dolores Public Lands Office and Canyons of the Ancients National Monument.

Leslie recently received her 20-year Service Award with the Forest Service, spending the last 14 years in Dolores working as a Range Conservationist.

Before that, Leslie and husband, Cliff, also a Dolores employee, were range cons for the Buffalo Gap National Grassland in South Dakota. Leslie has also worked in Idaho, as a BLM seasonal and on the Salmon National Forest.

A California native, Leslie graduated

from Humboldt State University with a bachelor's degree in Rangeland Management. She also worked on a master's degree in lichenology at Brigham Young University.

"I completed the coursework and two seasons collecting data, but have yet to finish my thesis," Leslie says.

In their spare time, the Stewarts volunteer for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service conducting breeding bird surveys. "We've been doing it for the past seven years," says Leslie. "We have three routes on the Dolores Ranger District where we conduct annual surveys."



Tom Kelly and twins Ericka and Sam, 11

Kudos Kelly

DOLORES - Tom Kelly recently accepted an Out-fitter-Guide Administrator position at the Dolores Office.

Tom is now responsible for Forest Service and BLM Recreation Special-Use and Special-Events permits. On the San Juan since 1980, Tom started out on the Pine Ranger District as a seasonal Forestry Aid.

He moved over to Dolores in 1987 as a Range Technician. In 1996, he became Fire Management Officer for the Service First West Zone.

DOLORES PUBLIC LANDS OFFICE



Roger Baker

BLM's Got Baker

DOLORES - Roger Baker is the new BLM Rangeland Management Specialist in Dolores, where he'll be coordinating the noxious-weed program.

Roger is returning to the BLM after working 16 years for the Office of Surface Mining in Denver, where he specialized in reclamation. Before that, he worked for the BLM in Canon City, Las Vegas, Meeker, and Grand Junction.

Roger's wife, Erica, is working toward her Certified Public Accountant license in Cortez.

"Our three kids are all grown and working on the east slope," he says. Sarah, 23, teaches third grade in Colorado Springs; Luke, 21, is in sales in Denver; and Mark, 19, works for a major grocery chain in Denver.



Patrick McCoy

He's the Real McCoy

DOLORES - Patrick McCoy is the new Lands and Minerals Specialist in Dolores. A graduate of Purdue University, Pat has worked for the USFS for 25 years.

His career has spanned 10 National Forests in six states, including the Tongass National Forest, where he worked for a decade on the Wrangell Ranger District.

McCoy is joined by his wife, Vangi, and their children, Sean, 11, and Cheyenne, 9. Pat enjoys climbing Colorado's famous 14'ers, mastering half of them so far.

"On Wilson Peak, I experienced near-death experiences twice on the same day, right out of our own Dolores Public Lands Office," he says.

Other District Doin's

DOLORES - Brooke Brown, aka Brooke Simpson, not only changed marital status last year, but also government agencies. Brooke traded in her Forest Service Fuels Archaeologist hat to become the new BLM Archaeologist. Then, she married Steve Brown, a Mancos/Lone Mesa State Park employee.

Penny Wu recently accepted a 90-day detail position on the White River National Forest as the Dillon Ranger District Recreation Planner. Penny's husband, Kyle Lester, works for the Colorado Department of Transportation up there. So the detail will allow the couple to live under one roof - for at least the next 90 days.

Dolores Public Lands Office Stories and Photos by Toni Kelly, Dolores Public Lands Office Visitor Information Specialist (and wife of Tom)

ANASAZI HERITAGE CENTER

By Victoria Atkins

DOLORES - This past year, more than 55 volunteers gave valuable support to the Anasazi Heritage Center by contributing over 6,500 hours. They helped greet and orient visitors to the museum, staffed the museum shop, processed library materials, and packaged fragile artifacts for safe storage.

In fact, volunteers made it possible for the Heritage Center to offer daily tours to Escalante Pueblo for the first time last summer. Volunteers receive training, including taking weekly field trips to various heritage sites throughout the Four Corners.

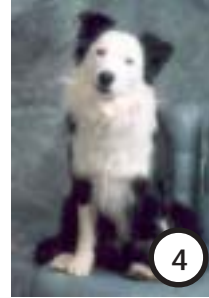
In appreciation for their work, volunteers receive an annual pass to the Heritage Center, and a small gift certificate and 15% discount at the museum shop.

The Anasazi Heritage Center is the information center for the BLM Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, as well as a curatorial and interpretive museum for southwest Colorado.



AHC staff and volunteers pose during the Volunteer Recognition Luncheon held last year.

"WHO'S MY PERSON?" CONTEST



Here's How to Play!

Each pet belongs to a San Juan employee (BLM, FS, or SJMA). Send an email message to abond@fs.fed.us with the name of the employee you think owns the pet next to the number of the pet before April 1st - no foolin'!

Prizes

The following prizes have been donated by the San Juan Mountains Association:

1st Place: *"Fire in the Sky-The Missionary Ridge Fire"*
- book published by the Durango Herald
2nd Place: Limited edition *SJMA mug*
3rd Place: *Latitude 40 Map of Southwest Colorado*
topo map

Clues

1. Yoda the Cat lives in a house where he'd better not eat a bird.
2. Kirk and Sacwah are a pair of love birds who belong to San Juan lovebirds.
3. Sammie is as pugnacious as her owner.
4. Jake the the border collie sat in on a professional photo shoot with this employee's daughters.
5. Medley the horse is one of two horses who live with a San Juan employee who used to work for Mesa Verde.
6. This water beast belongs to a timber beast.
7. Blanca lives with three dogs and one cat ... oh, and one San Juan employee.
8. Venus and Jupiter belong to the twins of a San Juan couple.
9. Alice B likes to "horse around" with her owner.
10. Clover is the only cow in this employee's family.

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